

1000 Respondents
April, 1990
FINAL

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Study #4005
NBC News/WSJ
National Survey
April 1990

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from Hart Research for NBC News and The Wall Street Journal. We're conducting a confidential poll of public opinion across the country. Of the people living in your household who are at least 18 years old, including those who are not home right now, can you tell me who had the most recent birthday? (If person doesn't know all the birthdays, say:) Well, of the ones you do know, who had the last birthday? May I speak to that person please? (If person with most recent birthday is not home, find out when he/she will return and make an appointment to call back.)

(If respondent indicates that he/she is the one with the most recent birthday say:) Here is my first question. (Proceed immediately to question #1--do not pause.)

(If respondent indicates that he/she is not the one to have the most recent birthday, ask to speak to the person who did. After respondent comes to the phone, say:)

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from Hart Research for NBC News and The Wall Street Journal. We're conducting a confidential poll of public opinion across the country. Are you at least 18 years old and the person with the most recent birthday of all the adults living in this household? (If yes, say:) Here is my first question. (Proceed immediately to question #1--do not pause.)

1. Are you currently registered to vote in the precinct or election district where you now live, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

Yes.....100% (CONTINUE)

No.....
(TERMINATE AND DO NOT COUNT TOWARD QUOTA)

2. All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	6/90	3/90	1/90	11/89	9/89
Right direction.....	47	44	49	41	42
Wrong track.....	32	31	29	35	34
Mixed (VOT).....	13	20	17	19	19
Not sure.....	8	5	5	5	5

3. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job George Bush is doing as President?

	6/90	3/90	1/90	11/89	9/89
Approve.....	75	69	71	67	67
Disapprove.....	15	19	19	22	17
Not sure.....	10	12	10	11	16

3A. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job George Bush is doing in handling the economy?

Approve.....	59	53	54	52	61
Disapprove.....	30	35	31	33	26
Not sure.....	11	12	15	15	15
	<u>4/90</u>	<u>3/90</u>	<u>1/90</u>	<u>11/89</u>	<u>9/89</u>

3B. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job George Bush is doing in handling our foreign affairs?

Approve.....	70	67	69	59	58
Disapprove.....	22	22	21	27	26
Not sure.....	8	11	10	14	16
	<u>4/90</u>	<u>3/90</u>	<u>1/90</u>	<u>11/89</u>	<u>9/89</u>

3C. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job George Bush is doing in handling our environmental problems?

Approve.....	49	
Disapprove.....	41	
Not sure.....	10	
	<u>4/90</u>	

4A. Over the past year, do you think the national economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

Better.....	12	13	12	15	18
Worse.....	30	37	29	34	23
About the same.....	56	48	57	49	57
Not sure.....	2	2	2	2	2
	<u>4/90</u>	<u>3/90</u>	<u>1/90</u>	<u>11/89</u>	<u>9/89</u>

4B. During the next year, do you think the national economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

Get better.....	24	21	22	21	25
Get worse.....	29	30	28	33	23
Stay about the same.....	42	44	44	39	43
Not sure.....	5	5	6	7	9
	<u>4/90</u>	<u>3/90</u>	<u>1/90</u>	<u>11/89</u>	<u>9/89</u>

4C. Do you think there will or will not be an economic recession during the next twelve months?

Will be an economic recession.....	23	30	31
Will not be an economic recession.....	64	56	56
Not sure.....	13	14	13
	<u>4/90</u>	<u>3/90</u>	<u>1/90</u>

5. Here are some possible goals for the federal government in Washington. For each one, please tell me how important you think it is. We'll use a zero-to-ten scale with ten meaning EXTREMELY IMPORTANT and zero meaning NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT. You can use any number from zero to ten, the higher the number, the more important you think that goal is for the federal government. Use a nine or ten ONLY for those you think should have the highest priority. The first one is... (READ AND RANDOMIZE CODES 5a THRU 5f)

(RATED IMPORTANT POINT
AS 10) (6-10) (5)
MID
NOT
(0-4) (0-4)
SURE

a. Reducing crime.....	(42)	88	7	4	1
b. Reducing the federal budget deficit.....	(31)	83	10	6	2
c. Reducing the cost of health care.....	(30)	80	9	10	1
d. Improving the quality of education.....	(41)	90	6	3	1
e. Controlling drugs.....	(54)	89	4	5	1
f. Protecting the environment.....	(36)	88	7	4	1

*note: averages will follow

6. One of President Bush's promises was that he would not raise taxes. Do you think he should keep that position, or do you think conditions have changed and there are some things for which he should now support a tax increase?

4/90 11/89

Should not raise taxes.....	57	55	7
Should raise taxes.....	39	38	
Not sure.....	4		

7. Let me read you one proposal to balance the federal budget. This proposal says to dramatically reduce the budget deficit during the next four years, we should cut defense spending, freeze most other governmental programs, including Social Security benefits, and increase taxes. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

4/90

Favor.....	27	
Oppose.....	68	
Not sure.....	5	

8. Recently, Lithuania, one of the republics in the Soviet Union, declared its independence. Do you think the United States should recognize Lithuania as an independent country, or should the United States not get involved?

4/90

Should recognize Lithuania.....	30	
Should not get involved.....	64	
Not sure.....	6	

9. If the choice were between maintaining friendly ties with President Gorbachev or supporting the Lithuanians' efforts for independence--which do you feel is more important?

4/90

Maintain friendly ties..... 61
Support Lithuania..... 23
Not sure..... 16

10. If the Soviet Union uses military force to prevent the Lithuanians from establishing an independent nation, do you think the United States should or should not cancel the upcoming summit between President Bush and President Gorbachev?

4/90

U.S. should cancel..... 31
U.S. should not cancel..... 61
Not sure..... 8

11. As you may have heard, the United States and Japan are currently engaged in trade talks. Japan has announced that it will take steps to open its economy to foreign businesses. How much of a difference do you think this will make in reducing the U.S. trade deficit with Japan--a great deal, quite a bit, just some, or none at all?

4/90

A great deal..... 16
Quite a bit..... 18
Just some..... 49
None at all..... 11
Not sure..... 6

12. In announcing they will open up their nation's economy, do you believe the Japanese government is sincere and will actually remove trade barriers, or do you believe their announcement is insincere and will not actually remove trade barriers?

4/90

Sincere..... 34
Insincere..... 52
Not sure..... 14

Now I'm going to ask you some questions regarding the environment...

(HALF SAMPLE A)

13A. What kinds of things do you think people should be required to do as part of an overall effort to make our environment safer and cleaner? (PROBE FOR AT LEAST TWO RESPONSES.)

b. Take part in a meeting or activity having to do with environmental issues

4/90

Regularly..... 8
Occasionally..... 23
Rarely..... 21
Never..... 47
Don't know/refused..... *

c. Change the types of products you buy and use because of environmental concerns

4/90

Regularly..... 38
Occasionally..... 38
Rarely..... 8
Never..... 14
Don't know/refused..... 1

25. For each of the following activities, please tell me whether you take steps to do it regularly, occasionally, rarely, or never. (RANDOMIZE 25a. THRU 25c.)

a. Recycle newspapers

4/90

Regularly..... 47
Occasionally..... 17
Rarely..... 6
Never..... 27
Doesn't apply (VOL)..... 3
Required/No choice (VOL)..... *
Not sure..... *

b. Recycle bottles and aluminum cans

4/90

Regularly..... 62
Occasionally..... 18
Rarely..... 5
Never..... 13
Doesn't apply (VOL)..... 2
Required/No choice (VOL)..... *
Not sure..... -

c. Reduce your driving by car pooling and taking public transportation

4/90

Regularly..... 18
Occasionally..... 16
Rarely..... 14
Never..... 40
Doesn't apply (VOL)..... 11
Not sure..... 1

d. Reduce the use of electricity and gas in your home

4/90

68	Regularly.....
22	Occasionally.....
4	Rarely.....
5	Never.....
1	Doesn't apply (VOL).....
1	Not sure.....

e. Cut household water use

4/90

54	Regularly.....
24	Occasionally.....
8	Rarely.....
12	Never.....
1	Doesn't apply (VOL).....
1	Not sure.....

26. In recent days, how much have you seen or heard about Earth Day, the environmental event which is taking place next weekend--a great deal, quite a bit, just some, not much, or very little?

4/90

23	A great deal.....
20	Quite a bit.....
22	Just some.....
9	Not much.....
25	Very little.....
2	Not sure.....

27. How do you feel about Earth Day, the environmental event that is taking place next weekend--do you support and sympathize with it, do you feel neutral and not care about it, or are you not in favor of Earth Day?

4/90

63	Support.....
20	Neutral.....
3	Not in favor.....
14	Not sure.....

28. Have you read or heard anything about the clean air bill that passed in the US Senate?

4/90

41	Yes.....
55	No.....
4	Not sure.....

Demographics

Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

01. Did you happen to vote in the 1988 presidential election? (IF YES, ASK:) For whom did you vote-- George Bush or Michael Dukakis?

6/90

9	Didn't vote.....
57	George Bush.....
29	Michael Dukakis.....
1	Other candidate (VOL).....
1	Too young (VOL).....
3	Not sure.....

02. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN", ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong Democrat/Republican or a not very strong Democrat/Republican? (IF NOT SURE, CODE AS "NOT STRONG DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN".)

(IF "INDEPENDENT", ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly Independent? (IF "NOT SURE", CODE AS "STRICTLY INDEPENDENT".)

6/90

17	Strong Democrat.....
17	Not a strong Democrat.....
8	Independent/Lean Democrat.....
14	Strictly Independent.....
9	Independent/Lean Republican.....
14	Not strong Republican.....
17	Strong Republican.....
3	Other.....
1	Refused.....
1	Don't know/nothing.....

03. In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, very conservative, or haven't you thought much about it?

6/90

7	Very liberal.....
16	Somewhat liberal.....
24	Moderate.....
22	Somewhat conservative.....
9	Very conservative.....
21	No thoughts.....
1	Not sure.....

04. What is the last grade you completed in school?

Grade school..... 1
 Less than high school graduate..... 10
 High school graduate..... 32
 Some college, no degree..... 18
 Vocational training, 2-year college..... 11
 4-year college/Bachelor's degree..... 18
 Some postgraduate work, no degree..... 2
 2-3 years postgraduate work..... 6
 Master's degree..... 2
 Doctoral degree/law degree..... 2
 Not sure/refused..... 1

6/90

05. How old are you? (If REFUSED, ASK:) Well, can you tell me which age group you belong to? Are you in the age group 18 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44, 45 to 49, 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64, or 65 and over?

18-24..... 8
 25-29..... 10
 30-34..... 13
 35-39..... 12
 40-44..... 9
 45-49..... 8
 50-54..... 8
 55-59..... 6
 60-64..... 7
 65 and over..... 20
 Not sure/refused..... --

6/90

06. What type of work do you do? (WRITE JOB DESCRIPTION IN SPACE BELOW.)

JOB DESCRIPTION:

07. Tell me which one of the following best describes how you go to work...

Drive your own car..... 57
 Car pool..... 6
 Some form of public transportation..... 3
 Combination (VOL)..... 3
 Other (VOL)..... 26
 Doesn't apply (VOL)..... *
 Not sure..... *

6/90

08. Are you, or is any member of your household, a member of a labor union?

Labor union member..... 12
 Labor union household..... 8
 Non-union household..... 78
 Not sure..... 2

6/90

09. What is your marital status--are you single and never married, married, separated, divorced, or widowed?

Single.....	19	
Married.....	61	
Widowed.....	9	
Divorced.....	8	
Separated.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	--	
	8	

4/90

010. Are there any children under 3 years of age living in your household?

Yes.....	13
No.....	87
Refused/NA.....	*

4/90

011. What religion were you brought up in?

Protestant.....	38
Catholic.....	27
Jewish.....	3
Other.....	29
None.....	2
Not sure/refused.....	1

4/90

012. Are you white, black, Hispanic, Asian, or something else?

White.....	83
Black.....	11
Other.....	1
Not sure/refused.....	1

4/90

013. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000.....	9
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	17
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	20
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	19
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	14
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	10
More than \$75,000.....	6
Not sure/refused.....	6

4/90

014. Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

Male.....	46
Female.....	54

4/90

015. (ASK EVERYONE.) This survey is being conducted as part of continuing coverage of national issues by NBC News and The Wall Street Journal. A few reporters assigned to this story will be calling back a selected number of participants to get additional insights. Would you have any objection to being contacted?

Do not object..... 86
 Object--do not call..... 14

6/90

May we please have your name and the town in which you live for validation purposes?

RESPONDENT'S NAME:

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

(circle one)

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

Record the following--DO NOT ASK!

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(Area Code)

Length of Interview

10 minutes or less -1 16 to 20 minutes -3
 11 to 15 minutes -2 21 to 25 minutes -4
 26 minutes or more -5

Interview began: _____ a.m. p.m. (circle)
 Interview ended: _____ a.m. p.m. (circle)

THIS IS A BONA FIDE INTERVIEW AND HAS BEEN OBTAINED ACCORDING TO MY AGREEMENT WITH HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Interviewer's name (Please sign):

Validated By:

Date: